

BULLETIN



East Bentleigh
Primary School

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Term 2 / Week 2 : 23rd Apr 2020

SCHOOL VISION: East Bentleigh Primary School provides a rich, inviting, child-focused environment ensuring that all students feel safe and stimulated. Our students are able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential, equipped for the challenges of lifelong learning. Students develop into healthy and confident individuals, actively contributing to the world in which they live.

At East Bentleigh Primary School we are committed to child safety.

Hello everyone,

I hope that this message finds you all healthy and safe despite the inevitable stresses of our new 'normal' for the time being. I am encouraged by the words of our Premier congratulating all Victorians for adhering to the restrictions we are all living with at the moment. They have certainly made a positive difference in the spread of this virus. I can only hope that we don't follow the experiences of Japan and Singapore who are now experiencing a second wave of infections due to premature lifting of social distancing etc. I say this fully acknowledging how hard the restrictions have hit some families.

As a staff our teachers and ES staff have been working hard to change the way we normally do things. I for one can say that I find Webex meetings exhausting and I certainly have a filling diary of those coming up over the next few days, as we are unable to meet in person. I know that along with me, our staff really miss the face to face interactions that our days are usually full of, the most important being the interactions with your children. As we move along, teachers and ES staff are finding ways to maintain their connections with your children.

Seesaw is our main platform for communication, although I know that some teachers, as their familiarity with technology strengthens are beginning to use Webex (DET approved) or Google Teams to communicate. I have had a number of parents ask why we don't use Zoom. DET has advised us that due to security concerns this platform must not be used in government schools. Technology is certainly great in theory, but practically our teachers and others we have been in contact with are reporting difficulties teaching live, especially in the primary school setting as much depends on the efficiency of recipient's devices and connection as well as many personal factors.

Please remember, we are not expecting you to be your child's teacher. That is our job. If all else fails just make sure they read/are read to every day and complete what tasks they can. Can't upload to Seesaw - don't worry, there's always tomorrow - we are not keeping score. Our aim is to keep your child engaged and connected to school.

We understand all too well the pressures parents are under and every family is different. We are seeking feedback all the time. Some parents tell us there's too much work, others not enough. It is difficult to keep everyone satisfied but we are doing our best. I ask that you please be patient. We are working things out as we go along and changing our delivery according to needs and feedback. Remember there are lots of resources available both on our and the DET websites. The ABC learning program has come in very handy in our household on occasion.

A reminder that any families requiring their child to complete their on line learning on-site (emergency workers only), must advise me by the Thursday of the previous week, by completing the DET form which is attached to this email, so that I can make appropriate arrangements here at school for their supervision, where they will be supervised to complete the same program as their peers at home. Any children attending on-site must be signed in and out by a parent.

Please look out later in this communication for a message from our wonderful student leaders Samuel and Peta-Grace. Lastly please relax. It is early days. The most important thing for us to do is to look after your own and your child's mental health. Remember you can't pour from an empty cup. I hope that you enjoy reading an article found online "COVID-19 kids - What if.....".

Capital Works

As I said last week, this COVID -19 pandemic has not had a detrimental effect on the progress of our building. It was exciting to see that yesterday the preliminary earthworks in preparation for the landscaping began - a sure sign that we are entering into the final few stages of the project.



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Parenting Article COVID-19 Kids –what if?

When people say kids are going to be 'behind' I say, behind what??

Not each other - they're all in the same boat.

Only 'behind' the age expectations of a curriculum that currently has limited context due to these extraordinary circumstances.

In front on so many other, more important, fronts.

What if instead of 'behind' this group of kids is advanced because of this?

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read, they love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyard and sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation is the one to learn to cook, organize their space, do their laundry, and keep a well-run home?

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and to live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, custodians, logistics, and health care workers and their supporting staff, just to name a few of the millions taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life, who has a fine sense of empathy and care and concern for fellow humans?

What if he or she truly learns what really matters in all this..

Take care everyone!

Until next time..... Maria Shearn - Principal 😊

Message from School Office

Hello from the Office.... We hope this finds all our families well and staying safe.

Many parents have emailed us regarding their fees or school account. To all our families who have already paid their accounts we say a big thank-you. We realise there will need to be some sort of adjustment to Eurythmy and Dance Fees (Steiner Families) for term 2, but at this stage it is still being decided how we will approach this.

In the meantime could we please ask that all families pay the \$370.00 fee for Essential Student Learning Items (\$220.00 for Preps) per student if not already paid as these items are in your child's classroom / take home learning supplies that the school has already paid for. This would be much appreciated. We will keep you up to date as these adjustments are made but ask that you please be patient with us while we work through the process. If anyone has any particular query about their account, please email Jane on keen.jane.e@edumail.vic.gov.au. *Thanking you and take care everyone, from Jane & Ann.*

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Message from Samuel - School Captain

Hi To All Of The Students Of East Bentleigh Primary School!

I know that this is a very awkward and strange time for all of us in the school community.

I was pretty excited to stay home and relax but now I have definitely changed my mind after being locked in the house for 4 weeks. It's also upsetting to hear negative news about Coronavirus all the time. We are in this all together and we will get through it.

As the school captains, we are trying our best to make our isolation fun and we are going to post quizzes, riddles, recipes or craft links as Captain's Corner on the School's weekly newsletters.

My goal for this unusual Term 2 is to get better at time management. As I am heading to Secondary School next year, it is an important skill to master.

I am really looking forward to going back to school to be with my friends, peer students and teachers in Term 3.

Things I have been doing at home are reading heaps of books and playing with my sibling (of course remote learning too!). My brother & I wrote the message "Stay Safe!" with chalks on my driveway to send out to our neighbourhood.

Try keeping a diary of your feelings during this once in a lifetime experience and make sure to balance working time with fun and outdoor activities.

Below are two links to websites on how to make the best of this time in isolation - "13 Things to do to keep the kids entertained":

<https://www.hellomagazine.com/healthandbeauty/mother-and-baby/2020033187221/things-to-do-with-kids-at-home/>

This website has 115 activities to enjoy with your family or even your pet: <https://www.northshoremums.com.au/fun-home-activities-with-kids/>

From your School Captain, Samuel
(Don't forget, we WILL get through this!)

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Message from Peta-Grace - School Captain

Hi everyone, I know that with everything going on not everyone is going to be over the moon about it but just keep in mind that we will get through this.

Also you have your awesome school captains who are trying their very best to make isolation fun!

Considering everything that is going on, let's all look on the positive side. I want you to give yourself a few minutes to think about all of the things in life that you are thankful for and it can be anything like food, a puppy, you know what even toilet paper is reasonable at this point!

Think about what sort of things you want to accomplish during the days of isolation. I want to teach my dog how to do a few tricks.

I understand how frustrating learning from home can be but don't take it out on your parents, they're only trying to help.

Remember that no one came here to push you off a boat in the middle of the ocean and watch you sink, they're all there to help.

I HAVE A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Try making a poster. It can be with your family, virtually with your friends or you can have some peace and do it by yourself. On the poster write a nice quote with wonderful colours.

From your School Captain Peta-Grace

(Stay safe, stay home and keep in mind we will get through this together!)

